

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: February 28, 2006

From: JOHN F. BARNA, JR.
Executive Director

Ref Number:
Book Item 2.1e
Action

Ref: PROJECT APPROVAL AMENDMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ESCALON TO STOCKTON SECOND MAINLINE TRACK AND RELATED SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND THE SACRAMENTO DEPOT PARKING AND CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AMENDING PA-02-09

Issue:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached resolution for the Department of Transportation's (Department) Escalon to Stockton Second Mainline Track and Related Signal Improvements Project and Sacramento Depot Parking and Circulation Improvements Project?

Recommendation:

Commission staff has reviewed the Proposition 116 amended application, as well as subsequent clarifications, and recommends that the Commission approve the attached resolution, which would grant approval of the Department's amended application to include parking and circulation improvements at the Sacramento Amtrak Depot. The amount of this amendment is \$625,000 and does not jeopardize the future work on the Escalon to Stockton project.

Background:

Proposition 116 (PUC Section 99622[a]) authorizes \$140,000,000 to the Department for improvements to the Los Angeles-Fresno-San Francisco Bay Area passenger rail corridor (San Joaquin) and extension of the corridor to Sacramento, including:

- At least \$60,000,000 for rail rehabilitation and other rail improvements to provide intercity rail service between Fresno and Oakland via Madera, Merced, Turlock, and Modesto; and
- Not more than \$30,000,000 for rehabilitation and other rail improvements to provide intercity rail service between Stockton and Sacramento via Lodi and Galt.

In April 2002, the Commission approved PA-02-09, which authorized \$7,486,800 to the Department for the construction of a second mainline track and related signal improvements between Escalon and Stockton on the San Joaquin Corridor.

In February 2006, Commission staff received an amended application and request for approval for \$625,000 of the \$7,486,800 to be used to complete station access and circulation improvements at the Sacramento Amtrak Station. The project will consist of the design and modification/construction of station access to include: a drop off area for intercity rail users; improved walkway lighting between station platforms and parking structures; design and construction of outside intercity rail passenger waiting areas and covers; and additional parking and circulation improvements.

The construction of a second main track on the San Joaquin Corridor between Escalon and Stockton has been delayed indefinitely due to public concerns. The Department is in the process of reviewing completed projects within the San Joaquin Corridor, identifying project savings, and working with the BNSF to identify Corridor improvements that will help increase service, on-time performance or both. Upon completion of this review the Department will determine if there is a need to back fill funding or re-scope the Escalon to Stockton project.

The Sacramento Amtrak Depot is the central location for intercity rail connections for the Capitol and San Joaquin Corridors. This site is also considered an Intermodal Transit Facility connecting intercity rail passengers with national/state Amtrak rail service, regional bus service and light rail service, which will begin in September 2006.

The Department, along with their regional transportation partners, are spending an extensive amount of resources promoting and supporting intercity rail service along the Capitol and San Joaquin Intercity Rail Corridors. The results have been a steady increase in rail ridership along both Corridors. Although ridership has increased, access and parking to the Sacramento Amtrak Depot has not, making it more and more difficult for rail passengers to utilize rail services. This issue has become critical and generated numerous complaints by the traveling public. Completion of this project will assist in freeing space for additional parking and allow for more efficient movement of rail passengers and travel circulation in and around the depot.

Attachment

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Commission Project Application Approval
Department of Transportation
Proposition 116 Application for
Escalon to Stockton Second Mainline Track and Related Signal Improvements Project
and
Sacramento Depot Parking and Circulation Improvements Project

Resolution PA-06-02
Amending Resolution #PA-02-09

- 1.1 WHEREAS, in June 1990 the voters approved Proposition 116, the Clean Air and Transportation Improvement Act, for \$1.99 billion for rail and mass transportation purposes; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission is designated in Proposition 116 to oversee the five grant programs over the 20-year term of the Proposition; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 calls for the Commission to establish an application process and to develop and adopt guidelines to implement those programs; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 establishes as a purpose of the application process that it "facilitate implementation of improved cost-effective transit service to the maximum number of Californians and to prevent the funds provided for by this part from being spent on needlessly costly features"; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 requires applications to specify full and complete capital plans, financial plans, and operating plans, including schedules and funding sources; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, the Commission has established a Hazardous Waste Identification and Clean-up Policy (#G-91-2) that requires the local agency to have performed full due diligence in identifying the hazardous waste in the right-of-way and easements and properties as well as clean-up, and that the state has been indemnified from clean-up liability of damages, both present and future; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, in December 1990 the Commission adopted policy and application guidelines (#G-90-23) for the Proposition 116 rail program; and
- 1.8 WHEREAS, Proposition 116 (PUC Section 99622 [a]) authorizes \$140,000,000 to the Department of Transportation (Department) for intercity rail projects to be programmed for improvements to the Los Angeles-Fresno-San Francisco Bay Area (San Joaquin) passenger rail corridor including:
 - At least \$60,000,000 for rail rehabilitation and other rail improvements to provide intercity rail service between Fresno and Oakland via Madera, Merced, Turlock, and Modesto.

Resolution PA-06-02, Amending
Resolution PA-02-09

- Not more than \$30,000,000 for rehabilitation and other rail improvements to provide intercity rail service between Stockton and Sacramento via Lodi and Galt; and

- 1.9 WHEREAS, in February 2002, the Commission approved an application (PA-02-09) from the Department for \$7,486,800 in Proposition 116 funds for the Escalon to Stockton Second Mainline Track and Related Signal Improvements project; and
- 1.10 WHEREAS, in February 2006, the Department submitted an amended application requesting that \$650,000 of the \$7,486,800 be used to complete station access and circulation improvements at the Sacramento Amtrak Depot; and
- 1.11 WHEREAS, the February 2006, Proposition 116 amended application from the Department, including all supplemental information, has been reviewed by Commission staff, and appears to meet all the basic requirements as specified in Proposition 116 and the Commission's policies and guidelines; and
- 2.1 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Commission hereby approves the following adjustments to the Proposition 116 application from the Department;

<u>Project</u>	<u>Adjusted P116 Funding</u>
Escalon to Stockton Second Mainline Track and Related Signal Improvements Project	\$7,486,800 \$6,861,800
Sacramento Depot Parking and Circulation Improvements Project	\$625,000; and

- 2.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Resolution PA-02-09 is hereby amended.